

APPHON-ROHPPA

Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network
Réseau d'Oncologie et Hématologie Pédiatrique des
Provinces Atlantiques

NEWSLETTER

◆
January 2026

**The best care
for young Atlantic Canadians
with cancer and serious blood disorders.**

ADVISORY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:

CHAIR – DR. HEIDI BUDDEN

VICE CHAIR – DR. NATACHA HÉBERT

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Changes in Pediatric
Oncology - IWK

Position Changes -
Janeway & IWK Health

Nursing CoP
First Meeting

Body Image
Survey from SK

Atlantic Canada
Oncofertility: New
Guidelines & Resources



Educational Session

11 Feb 2026

12:00 – 1:00 PM ADT

An updated version of the pathway is now available on the [APPHON website](#).

**Tamara MacDonald will be presenting on the updated
Pediatric Cancer Pain Pathway**

REGISTER TODAY to receive the meeting invitation!

Save the Date!
APPHON Conference, Nov 5-7

Hosted in-person at the IWK in Halifax. Virtual access for some sessions.

Join health care professionals from the Atlantic Provinces for three
information-packed days of learning.

Conference Updates on APPHON Website

What people are saying from previous conferences:

“ I liked the time for participants to intersect and the open discussions.
The topics covered were relevant to daily practice.

I enjoyed the variety of topics presented at the conference. The speakers
were very engaging and knowledgeable on the topics they presented.



Changes in Pediatric Oncology at IWK Resulting from One Person One Record (OPOR)

Please be advised that the **IWK has switched** from the Dubois Dubois to the **Mostellar formula for BSA calculation** in oncology. Starting immediately please use the Mostellar formula for chemotherapy dosing verification.

Chemotherapy orders will appear different as they will be printed from the new clinical information system. Every effort will be made to keep these orders as similar to the current chemotherapy orders as possible.

Changes at IWK Health & Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre

Quite a few changes have been made since our APPHON Newsletter was last issued! We offer our congratulations and best wishes:

Dr. Lisa Goodyear is the new Head of Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the Janeway.

Dr. Bruce Crooks is the new Head of Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology IWK Health.

Dr. Victoria Price is the Chief of Pediatrics at the IWK.

Dr. Lynette Bowes is the Chief of Pediatrics at the Janeway.

First Meeting - Community of Practice for Nursing

At the 2023 APPHON/ROHPPA conference, there was great interest expressed in having a CoP for nursing in Atlantic Canada. We are thrilled to facilitate this initiative; anyone with interest in participating please contact Joanne or Carol. We've scheduled an initial meeting to look at terms of reference and timing of meetings.

JOIN
NOW

"Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly."

- CoP Guidebook

REGISTER TODAY
to receive the meeting invitation for
Monday, March 16th
12:30 – 1:30 PM



Body Image Survey from Saskatchewan

Dear Potential Participant,

We are inviting all health care professionals (HCPs) who care for adolescent/young adult (AYA) oncology patients to participate in a survey about **provider perceptions of body image concerns encountered by their patients**.

Dr. Devon Christoffel and Dr. Paul D'Alessandro are conducting this study (USask REB #BEH-5499) in order to examine whether there are discrepancies between patient and provider perceptions of body image changes throughout the course of a patient's cancer experience.

This 5-10 minute survey will ask you to report on the most prevalent body image concerns that you see in your AYA oncology/transplant patients, and the practices and interventions you utilize (or see others utilize) as part of your practice.

Survey Link: <https://redcap.usask.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=MKFCANTEHYK48MHJ>

Further details and eligibility criteria are listed below and available at the link.

We hope you agree to participate. Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require more information or if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Devon Christoffel, MD
Pediatric Resident Physician
University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine

Paul D'Alessandro, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Pediatric Oncologist/Hematologist
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine
Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, Saskatoon, SK, CANADA

Confidentiality

Your opinion is important to us. Participation is voluntary. All responses will remain confidential and will only be disclosed to the aforementioned individuals on the study team. Survey responses will also be confidential as they will not be tied to an email address.

Eligibility Criteria

We are inviting all professionals who care for AYA oncology patients to provide their input, including:

- Pediatric Oncologists/Hematologists
- Pediatric Physicians (including Pediatricians, Hospitalists, Clinical Associates, and Family Physicians who primarily serve pediatric patients)

- Medical Oncologists and Hematologists
- Adult Physicians (non-Hematology/Oncology including IM Physicians, Hospitalists, Clinical Associates, and Family Physicians)
- Radiation Oncologists
- Surgeons (Pediatric Surgeons, Surgical Oncologists, etc.)
- Resident Physicians and Fellows (regardless of discipline)
- Psychiatrists and Clinical Psychologists
- Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Practice RNs
- Oncology Allied Health staff (ie. Social Workers, Pharmacists, OT/PT, Dieticians)
- Any other health professionals involved in the treatment of AYA oncology patients

Navigating Fertility Preservation for Cancer Patients: New Guidelines & Educational Resources

As most of our APPHON/ROHPPA community is aware, APPHON/ROHPPA has taken the lead for a Canadian Partnership Against Cancer project in Atlantic Canada. A lot of work has been completed with the help of various provincial working groups, a steering committee, and a fabulous patients and family working group as well as patient and family representation on all working groups. The updated guidelines for both pediatrics and adults are now available on our website: [Oncofertility Guidelines](#). Thank you to all who have provided feedback.

Educational resources have also been developed as part of the Atlantic Canada Oncofertility project. Providers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the various resources available to patients. These resources can be found here: [At Diagnosis Educational Resources](#) and [Post Treatment Educational Resources](#).



Providing clinicians and patients with information on the localized resources is also a key component of these new guidelines and educational resources.

The guidelines provide clear options for fertility clinics available for the residents of each province, along with contact information, to facilitate seamless referrals. The patient educational resources on funding options and the closest available fertility clinics for residents of all Atlantic Provinces can be found here: [Cancer and Fertility Funding](#), [What are my options?](#)

Clinicians are urged to discuss fertility preservation with all patients/family members (as appropriate) regardless of the treatment risk. Our educational materials were developed to respond to the questions from our patients/family members and funding brochures have been developed for all provinces. All materials will be linked through each province's health resources to the APPHON/ROHPPA website. We will maintain the documents.

Any providers or organizations interested in more information for themselves and their clinical staff are encouraged to [contact APPHON](#).



Atlantic Canada Oncofertility is an umbrella term which refers to the project representing all the working groups, health care providers that provided input, patient and family advisors, and Oncofertility Coordinators from NB, NL, NS, and PE.

Our Vision:

For Atlantic Province children and youth to access comprehensive, current, effective, integrated, evidence-based hematologic/oncologic care delivered as close to home as effectively and safely feasible.

Our Mission:

APPHON/ROHPPA acts as a vehicle for communication, education, advocacy, and development of standards by and for member organizations, groups and individuals to achieve shared goals of comprehensive health services and clinical care, education and research related to the health care of children with hematologic or oncologic disorders and for their families.

We welcome newsletter submissions to share with our APPHON/ROHPPA Community -- [email us today!](#)



Thank you for reading!

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